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Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 25th to 27th and 41st meetings, on 4, 5 and 7 November and 9 December 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.25-27 and 41). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 30 September to 3 October (see A/C.2/57/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/57/496);

(b) Letter dated 20 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the twenty-ninth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Khartoum from 25 to 27 June 2002 (A/57/422-S/2002/1064);

(c) Letter dated 21 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Cotonou Declaration, adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held at Cotonou from 5 to 7 August 2002 (A/57/436);

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(d) Letter dated 21 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 2002 (A/57/444).

4. At the 25th meeting, on 4 November, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.25).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.31 and A/C.2/57/L.60

5. At the 27th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/57/L.31), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, by which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolutions 53/182 of 15 December 1998, 54/235 of 23 December 1999 and 55/214 of 20 December 2000,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, by which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States pursuant to its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001,

"*Welcoming further* the outcome of the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held at Cotonou, from 5 to 7 August 2002,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary General,

"1. *Reaffirms* that global-level follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 should be primarily concerned with assessing the economic and social performance of the least developed countries, monitoring the implementation of commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners at the country, subregional, regional and sectoral levels, and policy developments at the global level with implications for the least developed countries;

"2. *Stresses* the need for efficient and strengthened coordination, monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action and in this regard calls for an adequate allocation of resources for the functioning of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to enable it to successfully carry out its mandate;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the least developed countries, devoted especially to the coordination of initiatives and actions needed for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the country, subregional, regional, global and sectoral levels;

"4. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

"5. *Reiterates* its call on the governing bodies of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes of work and intergovernmental processes;

"6. *Urges* all Member States, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations to extend to the Office of the High Representative their full support for the fulfilment of its mandate;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council a comprehensive annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, invites all development partners, organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations to contribute to the report, and further requests the Secretary-General to consult with Member States on the appropriate form, such as, for example, a matrix of achievement for the report."

6. At the 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries" (A/C.2/57/L.60), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.31.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.60, (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.60, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.31 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolutions 53/182 of 15 December 1998, 54/235 of 23 December 1999 and 55/214 of 20 December 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, by which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, pursuant to its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001,

Taking note of the outcome of the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries, held at Cotonou, from 5 to 7 August 2002,[3]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/227 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[4]

1. *Reaffirms* that global-level follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[2] should be primarily concerned with assessing the economic and social performance of the least developed countries, monitoring the implementation of commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners, reviewing the functioning of implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the country, subregional, regional and sectoral levels, and policy developments at the global level that have implications for the least developed countries;

2. *Invites* each least developed country, with the support of its development partners, to promote the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within its national development framework and poverty eradication strategy, in particular, poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, and with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue;

3. *Stresses* the need for efficient and strengthened coordination, monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action and in this regard calls for an adequate allocation of resources for the functioning of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to enable it to carry out successfully its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 56/227;

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[1] A/CONF.191/12.
[2] A/CONF.191/11.
[3] See A/57/436, annex.
[4] A/57/496.

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund to support the activities of the Office of the High Representative, pursuant to its call in resolution 56/227 for voluntary contributions;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund, in particular for the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and international levels;

6. *Reiterates its call* to the governing bodies of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes of work and intergovernmental processes;

7. *Emphasizes* that the organizations of the United Nations system have a special role to play in the implementation of the Programme of Action, that the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate the coordinated and coherent implementation and monitoring of the Programme of Action is crucial, and in this regard welcomes with appreciation the decisions taken by several governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system to mainstream the Programme of Action;

8. *Urges* all Member States and the United Nations system and invites the international financial institutions and other multilateral organizations to extend to the Office of the High Representative their full support for the fulfilment of its mandate;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.